

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-61 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 16 and 25 have been amended as shown herein to emphasize that the filtering operation performed by the hybrid is a filtering of signals received from the telecommunications line.

Claims 1, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahamim in view of Wortman. Claims 2-4 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahamim in view of Wortman and Gilbert. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner has asserted that Rahamim teaches a hybrid circuit made from reactive elements configured in a voltage divider configuration. Claim 1 further recites that the hybrid must also perform a filtering functionality which filters signals received from the telecommunications line at frequencies that fall outside of a certain range. The Examiner has correctly conceded that Rahamim fails to teach or suggest this claimed filtering feature. In support of the Section 103 rejection, the Examiner relies on the teachings of the Wortman reference. More specifically, the Examiner points to a band pass filter 160 in Wortman which functions to filter the transmit signal before being applied to the hybrid.

In amending claim 1 to emphasize that the filtering operation filters signals received from the telecommunications line, Applicant clearly distinguishes the claimed invention from the filtering operation of Wortman. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wortman for performing a filtering operation with respect to signals received over/from the ring-tip telecommunications line. The band pass filter 160 of Wortman is limited in its operation and teaching to the filtering of the carrier signals produced by the transmitter and applied to the hybrid 140 for communication over the telecommunications line. The Gilbert reference similarly fails to teach or suggest the filtering of signals received from the telecommunications line.

As discussed by Applicant in the specification, hybrid filtering of the signal received from the telecommunications line can advantageously block transmit echo on the telecommunications line from passing through the hybrid to the receiver. Neither Rahamin nor Wortman recognize this problem, and furthermore the transmit band pass filter 160 in Wortman certainly does not function or operate to block such echo signals.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 are in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Turning next to claim 16, Applicant asserts that the Section 103 rejection is improper for at least the same reasons as recited above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 25 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyoshi in view of Wortman. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Hiyoshi reference teaches a hybrid circuit made from a balanced bridge (see, Figure 1). This hybrid circuit, however, is not a "first filter circuit" as claimed. The Examiner has conceded that Hiyoshi (the reference to Rahamim appears to be a clerical error) fails to teach the filtering functionality and relies on Wortman. Again, for at least the same reasons as discussed above, Wortman does not address the telecommunications line received signal filtering deficiency of the hybrid circuit from either primary reference (Rahamim or Hiyoshi). Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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